

South Piedmont Community College

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

daltieri@vnet.net

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August 16, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
TW-B204
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Opposition to Petition for Rulemaking by Satellite Industry Association, RM-9911.

Dear Secretary Salas:

After a five-year struggle, South Piedmont Community College was only recently granted an ITFS license, and now we learn that license is in jeopardy because of the Satellite Industry Association's petition.

I wish to make it clear that if the SIA's petition is approved, it will essentially doom the North Carolina Community College System's ITFS network.

The broadband Internet connectivity our ITFS license would give us is of great value to South Piedmont Community College, whose service area includes two North Carolina counties and a substantial rural area. Losing our ITFS license would be tantamount to expanding the Digital Divide in our area.

As you know, we in North Carolina have spent the last five years resolving mutual exclusivity and other licensing issues. We have worked diligently and extensively because we have come to realize the value of ITFS channels.

It is my understanding that the ITFS channels located on the frequency bands proposed in SIA's petition are an important part of the educational network in North Carolina, and I seek your assistance in keeping that proposed network intact. Nowhere is broadband Internet connectivity more important than in rural North Carolina.

I hope the Federal Communications Commission will not – as the Satellite Industry Association has done – ignore the existing licensees and operations on those channels.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Donald P. Altieri

Donald P. Altieri, Ed.D.
President

C: Sen. John Edwards
Sen. Jessie Helms
Rep. Robin Hayes

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